# HAVEMEYER'S TRIBULATION.

That Answer and How It Is Being Prepared.

WHAT THE MAYOR THINKS.

The Charges Against Davenport and Others for Violation of the Election Laws.

The answer of the Mayor to the Governor's letter has not as yet been completed, and it is now said that even after it shall have been completed Mr. Havemerer will not send it to Albany for several days. The fact is, the Mayor has found out that the charges, even though they may be "lumbled." as some of his friends had led him to believe they could be, and that he will have to let a few legal advisers revise his answer care-fully before he allows it to be made charges made against him were published in the newspapers the day they were presented to the Governor, and that if he had half a mind to keep posted as to what his prosecutors were doing for his benefit he could have easily been primed for a ready answer when the Governor's terse little note came duly to hand last Saturday; and yet he retended, day before yesterday, that he really did hot know what the charges made against him were, and yesterday, on reading a portion of them, expressed himself as very much surprised to find in them many things he had not before even dreamed of in his Mayoral philosophy. This

IGNORANCE OF THE FUNNY OLD MAN can be easily accounted for if his statement that has not read a newspaper in six months can be refled upon; but as he occupies a great deal of his time in the afternoon after lunching with Good Gracious Matsell in reading everything in the ont as having some relevancy to the daily actions of a man named W. F. Havemeyer it is quite possible that the statement was made by the Mayor when he was just recovering from the after effects of an afternoon snooze, and when all things mundane looked rather mythical to the Mayoral optics. It may be said just here in relation to these charges that certain stories have leaked out about the "opinion" from the Corporation Counsel's Office which will not by any means fortify the Mayor's position in the eyes of the Governor if they are borne out by facts hereafter. One of the strong points he expects to make in his answer is, as was stated in the HERALD yesterday, that he was justified in reappointing Gardner and Charlick, law or no law, so long as he had first sought for and obtained the opinion of the Corporation Counsel, that opinion deciding that he had the right to make the reappointments. In the face of this it is now alleged, on pretty good authority, that the favorable opinion was asked for before it was written-that is, when asked for, it was distinctly stated that the opinion should be what it turned out to be, declaratory of his right to make the reappointments. It is also alleged that the points for the opinion were laid down by a party who was in no way connected with the Corporation Counsel's Office. If these allegations should prove to be correct-and it is quite possible, if an investigation is ordered by the Governor into the Mavor's conduct, that the whole story about the opinion will be dragged to light-

ernor into the Mayor's conduct, that the whole story about the opinion will be dragged to light—there will be a high old time gene raily in legal circles which, up to the present, have apparently had no noger in the municipal pie one way or the other. The Mayor, of course, scouts the idea that there was anything like

A FITCH AND TOSS GAME
between him and the Corporation Counsel's Office before he obtained the opinion he desired, and he may be right; but, at the same time, there are those who would like to know why, before Gardner and Charlick resigned at all, the Mayor asked the Corporation Counsel people to let him know whether their resignations, if they did resign, would affect his supposed right to make the responsitionments 7 it is said that the Mayor's personal work in getting up the answer to the Governor will not be a very laborious one, and that the charges are now in the hands of two well known lawvers of this city, who have been intrusted with the task of making out of the Mayor's views and points as strong a legal argument as skill and ingenuity can possibly accomplish. "I am in no burry, no hurry at all," said the Mayor yesterday, when questioned about the time when the answer would be ready. "It took quite a long time for the men who made up those charges to get them in some kind of shape, and it is only fair that I snould take my time to answer so as to answer them well; and they will be answered, I tell you. It they think they can walk over me every day they're mistaken, and they'll find out before this tang is over that they have miscalculated their strength. I am confident that everything will come out in the end all right. What I have done legally, and there is another.

thing is over that they have miscalculated their strength. I am confident that everything will come out in the end all right. What I have done legally, and there is nothing in their charges that saarms me in the slightest degree. They, doubtless, think they will make a big political haul out of all this fuss and leather movement. Let them think so. It may do them good and doesn't do me any harm."

THAT INTERVIEW.

The Mayor, moreover, stated that the Governor had not called upon him the day previous, and laughingly remarked:—"All I knew about the interview Governor Dix and I were to have I learned from the reporters. I had no reason to expect him to call, and I dare say he did not intend to pay me a visit. So, you see, the reporters didn't get that right anyhow, and Parton might as well make a note of it for another article," and the Mayor grinned in a way that would have brought a smile to the lace of a grizzly bear.

The case of little Johnny Davenport seems, after all, not to be such a laughing matter as he and his friends would like the public to consider it. Charges have really been preferred against him by the individuals whose names have aiready been published, and who consider themselves aggreed.

The case of little solume pavenports seems, after the case of little solume purchased to consider it. charges have really been preferred against limby by his scion at the elections when they were inspectors. It is said that, in addition to commit preferred by other parties, and that the passed it is said that, in addition to commit preferred by other parties, and that little Johnny will be made to travel over a very hard to write the little Johnny will be made to travel over a very hard to write the little Johnny will be made to travel over a very hard to write the little Johnny will be made to travel over a very hard to write the weak single will be made to travel over a very hard to write the weak single will be made to travel over a very hard to write the weak single will be made to travel over a very hard to write the weak of the weak of little down the register will be the prought against him. Tammany Hall as an organization has nothing to do with the matter, but put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress and in shape and get before the progress and the put in shape and get before the progress are at put in shape and get before the progress and the put in shape and get before the progress and the put in shape and get before the progress and the put in shape and get before the progress and the put in sh

Jury, without the knowledge of Mr. Phelps. About the 6th of the same month this jury ordered a bill of indictment against the party who was charged with the violation of the Election laws, and this on the same papers which, as alleged, District Attorney Phelps refused to act upon. It is asserted, moreover, that when Mr. Phelps found out what the Grand Jury had done he rejused to prosecute on the indictment found. If these allegations are correct and charges are preferred against Mr. Phelps on the strength of them there will be plenty of work in the courts for some time to come.

The Board of Police passed a resolution yesterday, on motion of Commissioner Matsell, granting a leave of absence of ten days to captains, five to sergeants and three to patrolmen, with pay.

The French workingmen have held a meeting at which they adopted the following preamble and

abused the power which the people therefore be it Resolved, That the Club of French Workingmen hearthy approve of the resolution of the Board of Aldermen asking the Governor to remove Mayor Havemeyer.

A "Good Gracious" Time All Around. [From the Buffalo Express.]

When Mayor mavemeyer appointed Matsell Police Commissioner, Governor Dix, in his astonishment, said, "Good gracious!" The other day the Governor sent an order to the Mayor to prepare a defence of the charges against him, and it is sup-posed that Havemoyer then exclaimed "Good gra-cious" It seems to be a "good gracious" time all around in New York.

#### AFFAIRS AT POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS.

The Board of Police Commissioners held a meeting yesterday alternoon, but transacted no business of importance. A general discussion was induiged in on the subject of Superintendent, but no candidate was put forward. There are, it is said, five candidates for the position. They are, cording to rumor, General Shaier, Captain Allaire, Inspector Thorne, Captain Caffrey and inspector Walling. General Shaler is supported by the Seventh regiment, now very strong in office in Mulberry street, and the military generally. Captain Allaire's interests are not quite so visible; but it is said he relies on past service for advancement. Inspector Thorne is backed by the friends of Mr. Charlick, who are very anxious to see him put into the office for reasons (it is hinted) connected with the Street Department. The Deputy Superintendent, John Charlick's), is working hard for his interests both in and out of the department. He has already succeeded in persuading several merchants to address the Board on the subject.

Captain Caffrey is an old intimate of some members of the Board, and if he fails in the Superintendency will look for the next best thing. The Twenty-ninth precinct will be in the market, and

it is said to be a pleasant place to live in.

It was rumored yesterday at the Central Office that Inspector Thorne's name was on the list of the seven captains whose standing was to be inquired into. When he was appointed Superintendent over the Street Cleaning Bureau he resigned his position as Inspector of Police. Some time after the Board, tearing trouble was approaching and being desirous of protecting Mr. Thorne, sent for him. His situation was gone into, and it was seen that if the street cleaning was taken out of the hands of the Board of Police, as was then likely, he would be without a piace. They on the spot, at a full meeting of the Board (the old Board) made him a patroiman (although according to law he was not eligible through age), then a roundsman, sergeant, captain and inspector. There they left him. In less than Bitteen minutes Chizen Thorne was made Police Inspector Thorne by that wonderful Board of Police. Mr. Charlick's riend O'Brien would naturally expect the piace of Superintendent if Mr. Thorne was removed. It is more than probable he would like to be Police Inspector too.

The Muyor had a long Interview with Superintendent if Thorne yesterday; it is said on the subject of irregularities in the department complained of in the Governor's correspondence to the Mayor.

Commissioner Disbecker has commenced on the rough overhauling of the several bureaus attached to the Department of Police, and lively times are expected next week. The following resolutions were adopted yesterday at the meeting of the Board:—

Resolved, That, with a view of securing intelligent for him. His situation was gone into, and it was

Resolved, That, with a view of securing intelligent action in the cases of applications and recommendations for appointments and promotions to or in the police force, the Chief Clerk furnish each member of the Board with a ruil and comblete list of the several inspectiors, captains, sergeants and roundsmen of the police force, with their respective terms of service and their police record, as may appear from the flies of the department. Resolved, That in consequence of an alleged informatity in the reception of proposals the bids for stationery. Ac., for the Bureau of Elections remain unopened, and that they be at once destroyed in the presence of the Board.

Resolved, That the Chief of the Bureau of Elections be and he is hereby instructed to prepare specifications and a form of contract for the printing and stationery for the use of said Bureau at the ensuing election, and alvertise for proposals for the same, in conformity with the city charter.

Resolved, That all requisitions for the use of the Police Department proper shall be granted by the Committee on Station Houses and all requisitions for printing and Resolved, That, with a view of securing intelligent

Department proper shall be granted by the Committee on Station Houses and all requisitions for printing and stationery not procured on contract shall be granted by the Committee on Printing and Stationery. In granting requisitions all officers shall subscribe their full names in ink.

Resolved, That a book of requisitions.

olved. That a book of requisition orders, with cou-Resolved, That a book of requisition orders, with conpons annexed, shall be keet under the direction of the
Chief Clerk. All requisitions issued under the above
resolutions shall be filed and numbered, and coupons of
orders from said book to carry into effect the requisition
granted shall be issued, signed by the Chief Clerk. Such
orders will be returned with the bills rendered.

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Street
Cleaning furnish to this Board and to each member
thereof desiring the same a complete and accurate list
of all the inspectors, foremen, gangmen, watchmen, scowmen, cartinen, laborers and any and all other persons
employed by or engaged in the street Cleaning Bureau,
with the haurer of the service performed by each person
and the amount of compensation given for such service.

Sergeant Statsbury was dismissed the force and

Sergeant Statsbury was dismissed the force and the Board adjourned to meet on Friday next.

A number of complaints made by citizens against policemen were disposed of yesterday by

public offices and courts, salaries, &c., were:-
1874
1873
Reduction in 1872 over 1871 1,312,793
Reduction in 1873 over 1871 1,700,822
The appropriation and 1,700,822
The appropriations raised by taxation to meet these expenditures were:—
expenditures were:—
1871 \$1,798,517
0 150 000
1873
There was a deficiency in 1871 at
fund in 1872 of
And a surplus for the benefit of the general 287,600
fund in 1873 of
The avenueditues of the desired
The expenditures of the department on account of the
Assessment Fund debt for various street improvements
114110
1871 \$5,448,429

Net increase of ocbt. 23,202,609
In 1872 the unexpended balance of appropriations, together with the revenue collected and paid into the general and sinking lunds, exceeded the expenditures on account of the permanent debt. as follows:

Unexpended balance or appropriations \$287,600 kevenue collected 1,60,801 

Net increase of debt. \$218,082.259

Net increase of debt. \$218,082
Ever since public attention has been drawn to the enormous increase of the city debt, notwinistanding the great reductions of expenditures made by this and other great reductions of expenditures made by this and other perturbent and other retreachments expected from a reform government, the present head of the Finance Department has sought to create the improseion that such increase of the cebt was principally due to extravagant prosecution of influencessary untown improvements carried on sider this a proper time and opportunity to fix the exponeshity for the heavy burden improvement of the house and improvement of the Bouleyard, the Sixth and Seventh avenues, avenue St. Nicholds, 156th street and other streets, avenues, parks and public places in the district bounded by Frity-ninth street, Eighth avenue, 110th street, Sixth avenue, Hardem River and Hudson River, were commenced and prosecuted by Mr. Andrew H. Green when in control of the Central Park administration, under the following special laws, passed by the Legislature either upon his recommendation or with his approval:—
Chapter 275, Laws of 1865, making the same provisions with regard to Sixth avenue, from 110th street to the mariem River.
Chapter 56i, Laws of 1855, making the same provisions with regard to Sixth avenue, from 110th street to the Harlem River.
Chapter 56i, Laws of 1855, authorizing the Commissioners of the Central Park to lay out and improve the with regard to sixth avenue, from 110th street to the Harlem River.

Chapter 965, Laws of 1855, authorizing the Commissioners of the Central Park to law out and improve the "North End" (that part of the city lying north of 185th street), one-half the cost of improvements and openings to be assessed upon the city at large.

Chapter 367, Laws of 1867, authorizing the laying out and improvement of avenue St. Meholas and widening of annhattan street, and conferring upon the Commissioners of the Central Park power to carry on all improvements by day's work or in such manner as they might deem expedient, also to acquire this for the city to any street, avenue, park or public place north of Fifty-mith street.

provements by day and the provements by day and the tor the very might deem expedient; also to acquire the for the very to any street, avenue, park or public place north of Fifty minth street.

Chapter 697, Laws of 1867, as amended by chapter 288, Laws of 1868, authorizing the laying out and improvement of streets, avenues, parks and public places in the district known as the "West Side," bounded by Fifty minth street, Eighth avenue, 185th street and Hudson Place. 

Seventh avenue from 1905 st. to Harlem River. 14,000
Sixth avenue from 1905 st. to Harlem River. 14,000
Boulevard from Fifty minth to 1805 less street. 1065,665
Circle at Fighth avenue and Fifty-eighth to FiftyPlaza at Fight avenue, Fifty-eighth to Fifty169,166 ninth street.
Biverside Park and avenues.
High Bridge Park.
Morningside Park and avenues. Nicholas e at Boulevard, Ninth avenue and 76,500 n of Central Park from 196th to 110th

Extension of Central Park from 106th to 110th street.

II.—For opening streets and places laid out by the Commissioners of the Central Park, legal proceedings being made on petition of the Department of Public Parks.

Public place at Boulevard, Ninth avenue and Sixty sixth street.

Boulevard from 156th street to Kingsbridge road at Inwood street.

III.—For improvements of streets and avenues begun under the administration of Antirew H. Green as Comptroller of the Central Park.

Boulevard from Fifty night to 155th street.

Sixth avenue from 10th street to harlein River Seventh avenue from 110th street to harlein River

Seventh avenue from 110th st, to Harlem River 608,765

Total assessments on the city \$11,419,537

During my administration of this department no street improvements have been commenced the cost of which is not borne entirely by assessment upon adjoining property; and, with the exception of the Eastern Boulevard, all such street improvements have been made in pursuance of the ordinances of the Common Conneil, which I am by law required to excente.

An association of property owners, known as the East side Association, "advocated and obtained the passage of the Eastern Boulevard act, under which the Eastern Boulevard was laid out by me, entirely within the lines of existing streets, requiring no outlay whatever for new land, either by property owners or by the city; the work now in progress in connection with it is the macadamizing of several of the streets and avenues comprising it, and the regulating and grading of 110th street; these improvements are importantly processary, and will be padd entirely by assessment upon adjoining

street; these improvements are imporatively necessary, and will be paid entirely by assessment upon adjoining property.

No work is carried on north of 125th street in pursuance of other authority than the Common Council, except the completion of the improvements began by Mr. Green, by putting in sewers and the grading and macadamizing of 155th street, to establish communication between the Boulevard and avenue St. Nicholas.

From the report of the proceedings of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, which appears in the daily press, I find that Comproller Green has offered a preamble and resolution agains, the further issue of assessment bonds for street improvements. This is merely a new method of his for imputing to this department the prosecution of unnecessary work, and giving himself the appearance of being opposed, for reasons of economy, to the very improvements which he planned and originated, and which, through special legislation recommended and approved by him, have become a burden upon the city to the extent of one-half their cost.

The expenditures of the department on Exaction, assessment and funded account have been reduced at a rate which will show at the close of the current year a reduction of over \$1.000,000 as compared with his year, and of over \$5.000,000 as compared with his year, and of over \$5.000,000 as compared with his year, and of over \$5.000,000 as compared with his year, and of over \$5.000,000 as compared with his year, and of over \$5.000,000 as compared with his year, and of over \$5.000,000 as compared with his year, and of over \$5.000,000 as compared with his year, and of over \$5.000,000 as compared with his year, and of over \$5.000,000 as compared with his year, and of over \$5.000,000 as compared with his year.

# COMMISSIONER VAN NORT'S OFFICE.

Last fall at the opening of bids by Mr. Van Nort for various street improvements the Comptroller had been always invited to be present, and although the Mayor prevailed upon the Commissioner of Public Works to postpone the opening of the bids, and the Commissioner, finding he had no legal power to suspend the opening (after several postponements) as directed by the Common Counpostponements) as directed by the Common Councit, with the approval of the Mayor, ordered those works to be proceeded with, and the bids were awarded by the Commissioner, and in turn transmitted by him to the Finance Department for the approval of the sureties, when the Compiroler endeavored to defeat the whole opening upon the ground that the Commissioner should not have made any postponement. But the Commissioner, upon consulting the Corporation Counsel, found that the ordinances, as confirmed by the charter, permitted a postponement of five days from time to time, thus foiling Mr. Green in his attempt to defeat the orders of the Common Council to carry forward the various street improvements as directed by them.

#### THE NEW YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT. Facts for the Commissioners and the Public.

The Combustible Bureau of the Fire Department is a valuable auxiliary to the Board of Under-writers. By its strict surveillance of all inflammable material it prevents the inception of confiagrations that of late years have proved so disastrous to Boston, Chicago and other cities, and business centres. The common sense of the community has shown itself, to even the proverb, that "an The Combustible Bureau is the ounce of preven-tion, and it, with the Fire Marshal's energy in contion, and it, with the Fire Marshal's energy in con-victing incendiaries, has solidified the security felt by our citizens in the management of the Fire De-partment by the present Board of Fire Commis-sioners, who seem to possess the faculty of conduct-ing their official business without the scandal that has been too prevalent in other branches of the city government. From the license less obtained by this bureau the department is enabled to care for the widows and orphans of deceased firemen: a noble caparity.

the widows and orphans of deceased firement; a noble charity.

The Board of Apportionment only reduced the original estimate \$15,000. If rumor be true, it is said, the Commissioners intend to discharge a number of the employes whose labors heretofore have made this branch of the combustible services efficient. With \$1,000,000 unexpended in the City Treasury to the credit of the Fire Department the Commissioners may well pause before making any enanges calculated to affect the credit or the use-inliness of the same.

# THE AMENITIES OF JOURNALISM.

[From the Washington Republican.] It is sad that the independent journalists of the country cannot be ordered to Minnesota. They would be of great use there in the war against the grasshoppers, on account of the crushing size of their feet, as well as the stupid weight of their catterial.

# FAREWELL NIGHTS.

Coy Coggia's Brilliant Appearance---A Majestic Exhibition Last Evening.

# CURIOSITY OF THE STAR GAZERS.

Some New Facts Concerning the Comet of 1861.

Man's pertinacious industry is ever at work unveiling the immense designs of nature, but yet inexhaustible remain the resources of its wonderful phenomena. None, perhaps, arouse feelings of curious awe more thoroughly than the erratic, unaccountable course of comets. In this last exhibition of aerial strangeness which has now so long attracted attention and in the unclouded bine of last night displayed itself in more bright distinctiveness, though not the same splendor has appeared as attended others that within the last twenty years sped their brilliant flight within human vision, yet interest in it has been not less marked. The favorable nature of last night brought forth numbers into the squares and open places of the city anxious to have a good, undoubted view of this corruscent object, fishing forward on its illimitable course, tops, or any points from which La Coggta was vis-ible, were crowded. At the different ferries, where from the broad bosom of the North or East River no obstruction arose to hide that portion of the

no obstruction arose to hide that portion of the sky last night the most observed, the passengers had an excellent view.

THE NUMEROUS OBSERVATORIES throughout the city were fully occupied to the latest hour the comet remained in sight, and had a constant flow of visitors—both ladies and gentlemen—anxious to secure a full inspection of the celestial prodicy. It may not be that so excellent an opportunity will again occur in the few days remaining of the comet's stay, and, if it were possible its celestial being could at all be touched by appreciation of its presence, it must have been well satisfied with the countless admiration of last night.

night.
It is interesting to observe how knowledge con-

It is interesting to observe how knowledge concerning

THESE ECCENTRIC GRES
increases, and how the curiosity of the people is fastened on the rare visitor who now holds its flery court in the northwest. Coggia's comet cannot complain of want attention while rushing through space at a tremendous rate. The comet of 1861, it has been surmised, came in collision with the earth, but as it now appears to be well established that its body, like others of its kind, is made up of gases through which planets beyond are visible, its effect was of no more account than the descent of a cloud to the earth. It is said that if the tail of the present meteor sweeps near the earth meteoric showers may be expected, and that in any event it will depart from view for interstellar space about the 22d inst. After that date it is probable it will remain wandering in infinite space, where not a ray of light or heat can reach it, and it is possible may be absorbed by Jupiter or some other distant planet. It is about certain it will never again be visible to human eye.

Wanderer that Collided with the Earth-A Grand Spectacle Suddenly Appears in the Heavens-Sir J. Herschel's Opinion-An Intruder on Jupiter's Satellites-The Fogs of 1783 and

Few comets created greater sensation than the great comet of 1861-the second of that year. It was discovered in New South Wales, on May 13, prior to its nearest approach to the sun, which

975. But it turned out to be an entirely new meteor, and that it made its existence known for the first time in 1861. In consequence of the light of the moon and the summer twilight the circumstances were unlavorable to examine it closely. However, it was every way a more striking object Monday. Seen in a dark sky it exceeded in magnificence any of those erratic bodies that became visible during the century. Its brilliancy was such that a shadow was sensibly projected on white paper when its light was intercepted by a well defined object. Two days after its appearance it increased to an extraordinary degree in brightness and its brushlike tall vastly extended, sweeping millions of miles and

REACHING ALMOST TO THE ZENITH at intervals. The halo-like appearance of the nucleus remained. The comet of 1861, instead of being hollow like half an eggshell as most of the comets before observed had been, presented the form of a sun filled with firewords, and in other respects differed exceedingly from Donati's comet of 1858. All the circumstances were calculated to introduce great complications in the theory of these celestial bodies. On the 10th of July the comet remained a most beautiful and conspicuous object, although its tail had dwindled down to

comet remained a most beautiful and conspicuous object, although its tail nad dwindled down to very small proportions as compared with its length when it first suddenly came into sight. At this date it was equally distant from the earth and sun. It soon afterward became invisible.

SUPPOSED COLLISION WITH THE EARTH.

In many of its features the comet of 1851 was otherwise remarkable and wonderful. The startling fact was announced that the earth passed through its tail on the evening of June 30, and the appearances noticed by various individuals in regard to the color of the sky added very much in giving weight to the opinion. In connection with this subject it appears that at the time in question, while the comet was conspicuous in the northern neavens, there was a peculiar phosphorescence or illumination of the sky which was attributed to an auroral glare; it was remarked by many persons as something musual, and considering how near the earth must have been that evening to the tail of this proximity. The sun, though shining, gave but a leeble light. The comet was plainly visible during the sunshine. It is related that the vicar of a parish church in England had the pulpit candles lighted at seven o'clock, which proves that a sensation of darkness was lelt even while the sun was shining. Though be was not aware that the comet's tail was surrounding our globe, yet he was so struck by the singularity of the appearance that he recorded in his day book the following:—"A singular yellow phosphorescent glare, very like diffused Aurora Borealis, yet, being daylight, such aurora would scarcely be noticeable." The comet itself had a much more hazy appearance than at any time after that evening. It was thought by Mr. Hind, an astronomer of acknowiedged ability, that the earth yeary probably encountered the tail in the earth year of une 30, or at any rate it was certainly in a region which had been swept over by the cometary matter a short time previously.

over by the cometary matter a short time previously.

SIR J. HERSCHEL'S DISCOVERY.

A curious lact in relation to the substance of the comet of 1861 was discovered by Sir J. Herschel. He proved to his satisfaction that on the night of July 5 that the head and nucleus of the wandering star showed no signs of polarization, and he in consequence surmised that its substance was of the same nature as clouds and similar matter. There was a lively discussion carried on as to whether the comet did strike the earth. It was contended that had such an event taken place seasons would be changed, the year lengthened by two days, the latitudes of different parts of our globe would be altered, and there might be even a possibility for a new comet to carry off the earth with it as a satellite, and prove fatal to human arrangements. It is pretty certain that Lexcit's celebrated comet went so near to Jupiter, in 1770, as either to be absorbed into its system or to have been projected into a new and unanticipated path by his influence. The tail of this erratic visitor approached within 1,400,000 miles of the earth, and passed around the sun seven times. For five months it appeared hearer to Jupiter than

his satellites, with which it got entangled; but the comet produced no effect on that distant planet or its attendants, which it would certainly have done if it had possessed any amount of matter corresponding with the immense space it occupied in the heavens. It is satisfactory to find that, as far as we can see, the unplessant consequences, if there were any, appear to have been borne by the comet and not by Jupiter, as it gives us hope that we might come off with equal success from such an encounter if it should ever take place. There would be a moral satisfaction in either absorbing or putting to night one of these spectres of the skies.

The foos of 1783 and 1831.

either absorbing or putting to night one of these spectres of the sales.

THE FOGS OF 1783 AND 1831.

The theory has been advanced by eminent men that the universal fogs of 1783 and 1831, which occasioned so much alarm, were the result of entering the edge of the hazy tail of a comet. The fog of 1783 lasted a month. It began almost on the same day in places very remote from each other. It extended from the north of Africa to Sweden; it occupied, too, a large part of the United States, but did not extend over the sea. It rose above the lottiest mountains. It did not appear to be carried by the wind, and the most abundant rains and the most violent storms were unable to dissipate it. It gave out a disagreeable odor, was very dry, and possessed the property of phosphorescence. Here was a clear case for commetary conjecture, showingthat if there was an entrance fino the tail of a comet on either of the occasions alluded to the effects were not of anything approaching a serious nature.

effects were not of anything approaching a serious nature.

EFFECT ON MUNDANE AFFAIRS.

In a notice of the conset of 1861 it would be inappropriate to omit stating the old opinion that the appearance of such bodies are "ominous of the wrath of Heaven and as harbingers of wars and famines, of the dethronement of monarchs and the dissolution of empires." The war in the Southern States was fairly opened when it became visible, and a hostile expedition, composed of English, French and Spaniards, had invaded Mexico with the view of overturning the Republic and establishing an Empire. A dreadful famine prevailed in the northwest province of India. The earth was of iron and the heavens of brass. Eleven militons of people were slowly perishing for want of food and desolation reigned over an immense tract of country. A similar calamity now afflicts Hindostan; but happily peace obtains all over the United States and there is no evidence of Coggia's comet having had maign influence on this nation. For the existence of peace and prosperity, comet or no comet, we have good reason to be grateful to Heaven.

Mark Twain and the Comet.

#### Mark Twain and the Comet. [From the Sun.]

"Then you don't take these things literally, Uncle Jake 917

"No, Boss. We've got for to read Scripter wid glass eyes sometimes; odderwise we're gwine to tumble roun' amongst common sense facts like a rediklus teapot on tin wheels. Now comes dat redikius teapot on tin wheels. Now comes dat Mark Twain, an' he encourages de ignance an' de superstition of de keerless an' unedicated by tellin' of dem dat him an' Mr. Barnum is agwine to hire de comiek to go a satlin' in. Mr. Twain may fool a good sight o' people, but dam ef he kin fool me. I know Mr. Barnum. He's a chu'ch member an' a good man. He won't lie. When he puts his name to dat story, all right, says Jake: but twell den I don't take no stock in it. De idee of fittin' up a comick wid staterooms, an' havin' water, an' gas, an' bilinrads, and telegrafts aboard is all dam non-sense. Den how's he goin' to git aboard arter it are fitted up, chile? Does de man think we's all fools?"

### THE ERIE RAILWAY.

Retirement of President Watson-Elec. tion of a New Board of Directors. The annual election of directors of the Erie

Rallway was held yesterday at the offices of the company, in the Grand Opera House, corner Twenty-third street and Eighth avenue. At the opening of the meeting there were present about thirty individual stockholders. The meeting was organized by the calling of Mr. Giles Hotchkiss to the chair. Mr. Charles F. Peck was elected President. After considerable discussion, resolutions were adopted thanking the retiring officers for their fidelity to the trust reposed in them, indorsing and ratifying the action of the late directory in creating the second consolidated prior to its nearest approach to the sun, which took place June 11. Passing from the southern hemisphere into the northern it suddenly appeared in the northeastern heavens on the 30th of June. On the night of the same day it seemed fully as bright as a star of the first magnitude, with a large perpendicular brush tail. Its head had the singular formation of three distinct parabolic envelopes of which the inner was much the brightest. A space devoid of luminosity separated the innermost from the middle envelope, except at the apex, and a similar event intervened between the apex, and a similar event intervened between the apex, and a similar event intervened between that on its first appearance the comet of 1861 "far exceeded in brightness any comet I have before observed, those of 1811 and the recent spiendid one of 1858 not excepted."

A MISTAKE AS TO IDENTITY.

The celestial wanderer was supposed at first to be the same that, in 1866, caused the abdication of Charles V., and which previously appeared in 1264, when it was imagined that its mission was to announce the death of Pope Urban IV. In the same year it looked down upon the amazed Engish barons during their first efforts to secure paritamentary rights in the reign of Henry III. Its appearance was also noted by the Chinese in July, 975. But it turned out to be an entirely new mateer, and that it made its existence known for the stock of the company by the disastrous fire at which turned out to be an entirely new mateer, and that it made its existence known for the stock and bear of the company of the manual premortgage to secure the amount of the \$40,000,000 of bonds, \$10,000,000 being reserved to cover the

which time the teller announced that howards of \$51,800,000 worth of stock had been voted upon, which was a majority of both the common and preferred stocks, and that the following ticket was unanimously elected:—Hugh J. Jewett, Thomas A. Scott, John King, Ji., John Taylor Johnston, M.O. Roberts, Frederick Schuchardt, W. Butler Duncan, Edwin D. Morgan, H. Baltzer, S. L. M. Barlow, L. H. Meyer, Henry G. Steobins, R. Suydam Grant, Lucius Robinson, John A. C. Gray, Cortlandt Parker, Homer Ramsdell.

A meeting was subsequently organized and Mr. Hugh L. Jewett was elected President and Mr. A. R. Maedonough Secretary. It is not yet known what changes, if any, will be made in the heads of departments. No report of the English accountants was received and it is understood that the result of their labors will not be made public until it has first been presented to the English stockholders, by whom they were employed. Mr. Barlow voted proxies to the amount of nearly \$55,000,000 of stock, the balance being made up by resident stockholders who were present.

The New Direction. The condition and prospects of the Eric Railway may be gathered from the following interview had last evening by a HERALD representative with one

of the new directors of the company:HERALD REPRESENTATIVE-I have called to ask you to give me a statement to the public of your

views with regard to the Eric Railway, its prospects and the intentions of the new Board. DIRECTOR-Well, the direction, who, by the way,

were very harmoniously elected, mean to do their very best in the interest of the stockholders here and abroad and of the public generally. The new President is an excellent man personally and as a business manager. He will start at an early date on a tour of inspection to note everything that occurs along the entire line. Another of the directors has been for the east few days, and is now, most diligently studying the position and evolving order out of chaos, or preparing the way for it. Nocody can state precisely how the road is just at this minute. There is no doubt it has been badly handled and a great deal of odium attaches to it.

Herald Repressionative—That's Wall street, I presume, sir? What do you gentlemen propose to do about it?

Director—This speculating has got to be stopped. I believe the road is good property and that it could be made very valuable. We mean to establish it on a strong basis and make it valuable. We shall all try to redeem its reputation. The become on the other side bave been treated badly. We mean to treat them well and ourselves too. We must and shall get the road out of Wall street. Several of us have sacrificed considerable time to that end. As to myself, I did not want to be a director, and do not want it now, but I was talked over, and on the representation that it was absolutely necessary for a long puil and a strong puil, we joined the direction.

HERALD REPRESENTATIVE—Do you think the names now on the Board will command confidence?

DIRECTOR—I do, and we shall deserve it. The property, as I said before, may be, in my opinion, made valuable; still we may fail. It may have declined too iar. However, we shall see.

Acknowledging the director's ready kindness in furnishing this full if somewhat indefinite programme of the good resolutions of the new Boars, the Herald representative withdrew. were very harmoniously elected, mean to do their very best in the interest of the stockholders here

### A HIGHWAY ROBBERY. George Hang is no relation of Ah Sin, but is a gen

uine and sturdy native of the Celestial Kingdom nevertheless. Mr. Hang is an enterprising gentleman and has made some greenbacks peddling cigars. He has been some moons in New York and cigars. He has been some moons in New York and understands the American vernacular very well. On Monday evening he stroked down in the neighborhood of Peck shp and South street to take a view of the shipping. While he was engaged in this innocent occupation he was assaulted by a noted Fourth ward thief named Charles Williams, who stole a gold watch and chain which Hang had just purchased for a young Cheassian lady whom he intends to marry. Williams passed his plunder to a pal and ran off. Hang raised a cry, and Officer Fitch, who was on post from by, went in pursuit of the fugitive. He finally overtook the fugitive, who turned fiercely on his antagonist, but was speedily quieted by a few timely applications of the club. He was then taken to the Fourth ward station house, and yesterday Justice Wandell, be-

fore whom he was brought, held him in \$1,000 baff to answer at the General Sessions. Williams has been more than once in the Penitentiary.

#### SANITARY MATTERS.

At a meeting of the Board of Health, held yester day afternoon, the following reports were received and adopted. It will be found that they embrace valuable statistics:-

and adopted. It will be found that they embrace valuable statistics:—

In the week ending on Saturday, the 11th inst., there were 582 deaths reported in the city. The total number in the previous wick was 452. The increase of mortality was observed only in young children and in the sufferers from phthisis. The last two weeks—the first two in the third quarter of the year—have been marked by the lowest death rate of any corresponding fortnight in the first weeks or midsummer since 1867.

The mean temperature last week was 73 degrees rabrenheit, the maximum beling value of the minimum of afteress, while the average degree of atmostheric moisting the statistic of the continued and the minimum of afteress, while the average degree of atmostheric moisting the statistic of the range of the flucture depth of water. The minimum of the statistic of the statistic of the flucture depth of water. The minimum of the statistic of the statistic of the statistic of the statistic of the atmosthere has been attended that least mortality which this city has experienced in may years. Two thousand four hundred and three deaths have occurred in these five weeks, or an average of deaths that has occurred during any one day in this city in seven years. It was a pleasant, clear day, with mean temperature of 683 degrees, maximum 76, minimum of, and the average humidity £2 degrees. The mean atmospheric pressure was 29, inches on the harometer. Such a day of passover in our New York midsummer is worthy of notice.

Their were 24 deaths from diphtheria reported last week against 31 deaths by their cause the previous week. 122 deaths 328 in the previous week and 338 deaths of the contract of the case of the city. The death rate in the city may be a summer of the symmetric pressure was 29.0 piches on the harometer. Such a day of passover in our New York midsummer is worthy of notice.

There were 24 deaths from diphtheria reported last week against 36 deaths by thole on the previous week and 338 deaths of the city. The death rate in the city m

Typhus fever.
Typhoid fever.

## MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

MCROBERTS—MCROBERTS.—On Wednesday, July 8, 1874, in Plymouth, by the Rev. Mr. Malcolm, WILLIAM ALEXANDER MCROBERTS to Miss ELEANOR MCROBERTS, both of New York city.

NORTH—MCORE.—On Monday, July 13, at the Tompkins avenue Presbyterian church, Brooklyn, by the Rev. Frederick G. Clark, D. D., WILLIAM C. NORTH to NELLIE, eldest daughter of Benjamin Moore, Esq., all of Brooklyn.

Died.

Baker.—On Tuesday, July 14, 1874, FranklisMorse, son of Abraham and Elizabeth Baker, aged
1 year and 2 months.
Funeral from the residence of his parents, 134
Lewis street, on Thursday, the 16th inst., at halfpast one o'clock.
Byrnes,—On Monday, July 13, 1874, James
Byrnes, in the 4th year of his age.
The funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 177 West Tenth street, New York, between Washington and Greenwich streets, on
Wednesday, 15th inst. Funeral to leave at two
o'clock P. M.
CASTRILLO.—Suddenly, on Wednesday, April 1, at

o'clock P. M.

CASTELLO.—Suddenly, on Wednesday, April 1, at
Paris, DAVID F. CASTELLO, eldest son of Edmund P.
Castello, Esq., of Bogota, South America, aged 23
vears. CHAMPLIN.—In Providence, R. I., on Wednesday, July 1, FRANKLIN W., only child of J. Henry and Emily Love Champlin, aged 10 years.

His remains were interred in the family vault at

Emily Love Champlin, aged 10 years.

His remains were interred in the family vault at Essex, Conn.

CLARK.—On Tuesday, July 14, at one o'clock P.

M., CLOTILDUS A., daughter of Albert C. and Lettina A. Clark, aged 2 years, 1 month and 11 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her parents, 657 Sixth avenue, on Thursday next, at two o'clock P. M.

CULER.—At Kinderbook, N. Y., on Tuesday, July 14, Dr. Henry J. Cullen, of the city of Brooklyn.

His relatives and friends and the members of the medical profession are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services, at his late residence, on the corner of Clinton and Montague streets, Brooklyn, on Thursday, July 16, at haif-past one o'clock P. M., without further notice.

ELPELT.—On Thesday morning, July 14, Louis C. Elpelt, aged 49 years.

The iriends of the lamily are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his brother, Augustus B. Elielt, No. 32 West Fifty-second street, on Thursday morning, at nine o'clock.

GERSHEL.—On Monday, July 13, Michael M., infant son of Adolph and Rosetta Gershet, aged 1 month and 5 days.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this day (Wednesday), 15th inst., at nine o'clock A. M., from the residence of his parents, 838 Ninth avenue.

Methourne (Australia) papers please copy.

from the residence of the parents, see that avenue.

Methourne (Australia) papers please copy.

GOEBEL.—At Elizabethport, N. J., on Monday morning, July 13, of apoplexy, Frederick L.

GOEBEL, aged 32 years, 1 month and 2 days.

Relatives and friends of the family are respectively invited to attend the funeral services, at the First Congregational church, Third street, Elizabethport, N. J., on Thursday, July 1e, at half-past eleven o'clock. His remains will be taken to Greenwood Cemetery for interment. Trains from New York, foot of Liberty street, North River, at 8:45 and 9:40.

Greenwood Cemetery for Interment. Trains from New York, foot of Liberty street, North River, at 8:45 and 9:40.

Gorslink.—At East Orange, on Thursday, July 9, 1874, Mabel Adelaide, youngest daughter of Andrew and Mary A. Gorsline, aged 10 months.

Harrison.—On Thesaay morning, July 14, Nelling May, only daughter of Horace and Mary C. Harrison, aged 7 months and 25 days.

The Inneral will take place from the residence of her parents, No. 266 East Seventy-seventa street, on Wednesday (to-day), July 15, at one o'clock. The iriends of the lamily are invited to attend. Hughes.—On Thesaay, July 14, Cathering Heghes, daughter of John and Bridget Hughes, aged 19 years.

Funeral on Thursday, July 16, from the residence of her parents, 135 Crosby street, New York.

Huyros.—On Monday, July 13, at No. 229 West Thirty-lourin street, John Hufton, a native of St. Andrews, Scotland, in the 67th year of his age.

Funeral services at the house, on Thursday, July 16, at two o'clock P. M.

King.—At Ellington. Conn., on Friday, July 16, George W. King, of New York, aged 29 years.

The remains were interred at Vernon, Conn., on Sunday, July 12.

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Lawrence.—At Tremont, on Monday, July 13, at the residence of her son-in-law, Robert Howie, Anner Lawrence, aged 85 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to dttend the uneral, at 8t. Pani's church, Morrisania, on Thursday morning, July 16, at eleven o'clock, without further notice.

Leach.—On Tresday, July 14, Miss Annie Leach, aged 39 years.

Notice of funeral in to-morrow's papers.

Lockwood.—Suddeniy, at Providence, R. I., on Monday, July 13, of neuralgia of the heart, Frances L., widow of William L. Lockwood and daughter of the late Seril Dodge, in the 47th year of her age.

Relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Thursday, 16th inst., at ten o'clock A. M., from the residence of her brother-in-law, J. W. Condit, No. 49 East Twenty-pinth street.

Montgomery.—On Tuesday, July 14, Eliza, wife of William Montgomery, in the 21st year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, No. 630 East Seventeenth Street, on Thursday, July 13, Mrs. Bridger McAlaney.—On Monday, Her Isth inst., at one o'clock P. M.

Noonan,—Suddenly, in Brooklyn, on Tuesday, July 14, at the residence of her father, Catharine Noonan, in the 30th year of her age.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the inneral, from her late residence, No. 30 Cariton avenue, this day (Wednesday), the 15th inst., at two P. M.

O'NSIL.—In Yorkville, on Monday, July 13, 1874, Bridger O'Nell., wife of Daniel O'Nell, in the 58th.

inst., at two P. M.
O'NEIL.—In Yorkville, on Monday, July 13, 1874,
BRIDGET O'NEIL, wife of Daniel O'Neil, in the 58th

Bridger O'Nell, wife of Daniel O'Nell, in the 58thyear of her age.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to
attend the funeral, from her late residence, Eightyfifth street, between Fourth and Madison avenues,
at half-past nine o'clock, on Wednesday, July 16,
thence to St. Lawrence's church. Eighty-fourth
street, where a requiem high mass will be offered
up for the repose of her soul, thence to Caivary
Cometery.

REILLY.—In Newark, on Monday, July 13, 1814,
CATHARINE, the beloved wife of James Reilly, agod
34 years.

years. The relatives and friends are respectfully invited

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to meet the funeral at Cortiandt street ferry, at two o'clock P. M. on Wednesday, July 15, thence to Calvary Cemetery.

RYAN.—On Monday, July 13, William RYAN, in the 36th year of his age.

Funeral from the residence of his brother-in-law, John McDonald. No. 62 Grove street, on Wednesday, the 15th inst., at one o'clock. Priends of the family are invited to utend.

SHEFFIELD.—In Brooklyn, on Tuesday, July 14, 1874, LUCY OLIVER, only child of James A. and Jennie G. Shemeld, aged 10 months.

Interment at Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Taylor.—On Tuesday, July 14, 1874, ALICE, iniant daughter of Wilson and Fanny Taylor.

Funeral on Wednesday, at eleven o'clock A. M., from the residence of her parents, No. 628 Greenwich street.

wich street.

VREELAND.—On Monday, July 13, 1874, in Greenwich Street.

VREELAND.—On Monday, July 13, 1874, in Greenwine, Jorsey Citty, N. J., GEORGE VREELAND, aged 87 years.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Tauraday, the 16th inst., at two o'clock P. M. from his late residence.